

I am Gregg Marchand from Windham CT.

I agree Proposed H.B. No. 6014 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS. Without any doubt should include random testing for drugs and the anabolic steroid for all armed police that have power of arrest and the use of this nerve damaging tazer weapon. I've seen time and time again police tazeing a person not just the once but three or four times as if police are playing a video game. Is this action part of the safe use of the tazer weapon? It seems a policeman's adrenalin kicks in and he reacts towards this animal instinct, the taser comes out and he shoots it not because he has to but because he has the ability to. Then the police have also have the ability to shock the person at will pressing the trigger as many times as he feels like sending 50,000 volts into a person and watch the person shake and scream in agony which is a form of torture.

Actually these weapons should be eliminated

The random drug testing we seek should fall under the (1) 'special need' category. After all the reason employees get randomly drug tested is for the safety of fellow employees and for the publics' safety. It's beyond comprehension that the employees that have Public Safety in their title [which are police] are not being randomly drug tested. After all they are in the publics' eye more than most. Police are around people quite a bit. It's probable the regulations from the Department of Transportation would come into effect since they work within the same surroundings at times, such as directing traffic or during a pullover police are in traffic. Plus the police have more than one loaded weapon. Police may also have a call for a bar fight. All these police actions include the public therefore to be sure police are acting in the proper state of mind should be randomly drug tested under the 'special need 'clause. The Public Safety Committee seemingly overlooks the 'special need ' law and would rather police run amuck instead of being held to higher standard of what and officers/troopers should be held to. After all police do have a high risk safety sensitive occupation. Let's finally be responsible.

After all police are defenders of public safety, they are charged with one of the highest and most noble responsibilities known to humanity. They are a hero to many, and the antithesis of the crime on the streets that we dread. They are a role model to our children and a protector of our families when we cannot be there. They are the physical embodiment of law and justice to me, and to the everyday man on the street. But they are also human. They are made out of flesh and blood, and thus they also have the same weaknesses and vulnerabilities as everyone else. Yet they cannot show this weakness; just as they cannot show the fear they face when they enter a darkened building where shots have been reported. They are only human and sometimes they can be tempted.

The abusing of the anabolic steroid gives the person who takes the drug a super push of adrenalin called 'roid rage'. Not a very comforting thought to have policeman with roid rage. There is no checks and balances. President Lincoln said no one is above the law. I guess when Lincoln had said that he was not thinking of policemen in the 21st century. Obviously police are above the law.

Here is what the National Institute of Health has to say about the effects of Anabolic Steroid abuse :“Research shows that abuse of anabolic steroids may lead to aggression and other adverse effects.¹ For example, many users report feeling good about themselves while on anabolic steroids, but extreme mood swings can also occur, including manic-like symptoms that could lead to violence.² Researchers have also observed that users may suffer from paranoid jealousy, extreme irritability, delusions, and impaired judgment stemming from feelings of invincibility. In turn this is a public safety hazard. Steroid abuse can lead to serious, even irreversible health problems. Some of the most dangerous among them include liver damage, jaundice (yellowish pigmentation of skin, tissues, and body fluids), fluid retention, high blood pressure, increases in LDL (bad cholesterol), and decreases in HDL (good cholesterol). Other reported effects include renal failure, severe acne, and trembling.” Other reasons why police should be tested: Anyone driving for public service gets randomly tested. Police are Public Servants and many work double shifts. They carry guns. They have power of arrest. Their job requires them to drive at high speed.

Most people that drive for a living are subject to random drug testing, and they do not have the power and authority that the police have it seems to make common sense that police should also be subject to the same. There is no logical reason for police to be excluded from random drug testing.

(1)The current law of public employee drug testing began with the Supreme Court's decisions in *Skinner v. Railway Labor Executives' Assn.*, 489 U.S. 602 (1989), and *National Treasury Employees v. Von Raab* , 489 U.S. 656 (1989). In these companion cases, the Court held that the government is allowed to conduct drug tests without individualized suspicion when there is a “special need” that outweighs the individual's privacy interest. In *Skinner*, the court found that public safety was such a special need. In *Von Raab*, the court found a special need in relation to customs agents who carry firearms or are directly involved in drug interdiction. It soon became clear that “special need” meant little more than that the nature of the employee's job was extremely important, and that a great deal of harm could be done if the job was not performed properly. The courts did not require public employers to demonstrate that employees who used drugs were likely to create this harm, nor that there was any special difficulty with preventing the harm through normal supervisory methods. Courts generally resisted, however, attempts to push the *Skinner/Van Raab* envelope to encompass large sections of the workforce. Gregg Marchand p.o.box 244 north windham ct. 06256